

Members Present

Nicole Majeski, Co-Chair	DelDOT
Helen Arthur	DHSS
David Bartoo	DNREC
Marsha Carson	Department of State
Ken Grant	AAA
Richard Klepner	Office of Highway Safety
Reed Macmillan	Dover/Kent MPO
John McNeal	State Council for Persons with Disabilities
William Payne	Citizen Representative
Louisa Phillips	AHA
Michael Wagner	Department of Education
Todd Webb	DelDOT
Jessie Welch	Governor's Appointee
Tigist Zegeye (for John Sisson)	WILMAPCO

Members Absent

Janelle Cornwell	Sussex County
Doug Denison	Department of State
Kimberly Holmes	Delaware Healthcare Association
Bill Jiron Jr.	Governor's Appointee

DelDOT Support Staff

Maria Andaya	DelDOT
Farzana Atique	McCormick Taylor

Guests

Tracy L.Y. Condon	DSP
Annie Cordo	DOJ
Jared Kauffman	DTC
Chip Kneavel	DelDOT
Tom Lawless	DelDOT
CR McLeod	DelDOT
Paul Moser	DelDOT
Tom Nickel	DelDOT
Linda Osiecki	DelDOT
Jim Pappas	DelDOT
Lloyd Schmitz	Council for the Blind

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Co-Chair Nicole Majeski.

After the introductions, Ms. Andaya welcomed Ms. Arthur who was appointed by Secretary Kara Odom-Walker of DHSS as her designee to the Pedestrian Council. She also welcomed Mr. John McNeal who will be representing the State Council for Persons with Disabilities and Ms. Louisa

Phillips of the American Heart Association.

II. MEETING MINUTES REVIEW (10/23/2018)

Upon the motion of Ms. Zegeye and seconded by Ms. Carson, the minutes for the October 23, 2018 meeting was approved by all except for Mr. Payne who abstained.

III. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Built Environment: Mr. Nickel reported that the Built Environment Subcommittee has not met since the last Pedestrian Council meeting but they are scheduled to meet in February.

Education and Enforcement: In the absence of Chair Chip Kneavel, Mr. Klepner reported that they met on January 14, 2019. They talked about reaching out to homeless shelters and various organizations such as Connections to give out reflective items and educational materials. Mr. Klepner also told the Council about their effort last year of reaching out to transit riders. They contracted with a promotion agency to ride DART busses along high pedestrian crash routes and hand out reflective strips and information regarding pedestrian safety. They went on six routes and made contact with around 600 people. The advantage of this undertaking is having a captured audience.

Legislative and Policy: Mr. McLeod reported that they met on December 4, 2018. They talked about the Share the Road Safety Class and how Ms. Andaya will be meeting with the University of Delaware Institute of Public Administration to get a scope to conduct further research on this. This project is being sent back to the Educational and Enforcement Subcommittee.

They also did a comparison of pedestrian codes among various states and talked about the differences/similarities with the Delaware code. Lastly, they talked about E-Crash data and how right now the pedestrian origin and destination data is being tested in CARS and hopefully will be available soon.

IV. PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES UPDATE

For 2018, Mr. Klepner said that we had a total of 24 pedestrian fatalities which is down by 9 from 2017. But of these 24, seven took place in December and as of today (Jan 22, 2019) we already have 2 pedestrian fatalities. Which means in a span of 7 weeks, we had 9 pedestrian fatalities.

V. 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Andaya asked the Council Members if they have any comment on the draft annual report. Mr. Payne asked to include under the presentation given on July 24, 2018 that engineers are looking at the crash worthiness of different median barriers (page 5). Ms. Majeski asked the group to send Ms. Andaya any other comments by February 5th so we can finalize the report and submit it to the Office of the Governor by the end of February.

VI. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

DelDOT Sidewalk Committee by Jim Pappas, DelDOT Transportation Solutions

Mr. Pappas explained that the Sidewalk Committee was created through a memo by Secretary Jennifer Cohan on March 28, 2018. This committee was created to bring together 17 programs within DelDOT that touch sidewalks in order to create connectivity.

Committee members are a cross-section of the Department. They come together in one room and talk about what projects they are working on to make sure there will be no gaps. They have met 3 times since the committee was created. Their fourth meeting is scheduled tomorrow.

They use available data to identify sidewalk gaps and check with committee members who might be able to work on them. Sometimes one program might be working on a sidewalk project along a corridor and there might be another road project in the same corridor that includes pedestrian facilities – and if there's a short sidewalk gap in between the two projects, the committee wants to make sure that it gets done too.

At the first meeting, Mr. Pappas asked all committee members to give him all the data they might have, projects they are working on so they can have a single database of all pedestrian facilities. After that, they worked on developing a prioritization tool. The first version of their prioritization tool includes Population/Demographics, Pedestrian Crashes, Land Use/Accessibility and Transit Ridership. This could change over time.

Mr. Pappas showed a snapshot of their app that shows missing sidewalk hot spots. Their goal is to start pouring concrete this spring. The idea for this committee is to be able to fast track missing sidewalk links.

Mr. Webb asked if there are talks of setting up a stand alone open end contracts for each of the county for these missing sidewalk links or curb ramps.

Mr. Pappas said that he's been talking with Mr. Tom Nickel, Coordinator of the Public Access Routes (PAR) Program about that and eventually they will probably merge what the sidewalk committee is doing with what the PAR Program is doing and then maybe combine both into one contract. Regarding funding, Mr. Pappas doesn't feel comfortable yet asking for a line item for the sidewalk committee because he doesn't know yet how much they're going to need. Right now, their hope is to do something that's immediate as per the hot spots app and look for existing contracts under which these missing sidewalk links can be done.

Mr. Webb told the Council that the reason why he asked that question is because it takes years to construct a project and having an open end contract will make it easier and faster to address deficiencies. And since one of the goals of this Council is to reduce pedestrian fatalities, we want to make sure that the facilities are there.

Mr. Payne said he has questions about the funding of these sidewalks. He said that he had the opportunity to speak with Secretary Cohan and he was told that there is funding for sidewalks.

Ms. Majeski said that there are funding available for sidewalks in different line items and programs. But what Mr. Pappas is talking about is finding the appropriate line item to tackle what the sidewalk committee identifies as priority. Eventually, they would like to see the sidewalk committee have its own line item but because it just started, they are looking at existing contracts to use.

Mr. McNeal said that in his travels up and down the state, he notices that considerable funding is being used towards shared-use paths that are geared towards bicycling rather than pedestrians. It seems like money is being spent on facilities that are more for recreational purposes rather than addressing repairs of pedestrian facilities. He doesn't know what the funding requirements are but he knows that federal requirements for bringing pedestrian facilities up to ADA standards. DelDOT was able to develop network of trails for bicyclists when there are way more pedestrian fatalities. Mr. McNeal just wants to make sure that DelDOT is complying with federal ADA requirements.

Mr. Pappas said that one of the members of their committee is involved with the bicycle and trails program in line with the complete streets. He cannot speak about the funding right now because as Ms. Majeski said, the sidewalk committee is just formed. That is why they are gathering data so they can determine where Delaware is right now and where it should be. Right now they don't know what their needs are. The sidewalk committee is catching up on years of not having a single program to address sidewalk deficiencies. He would like to hope that they would be able to deliver and he'd be happy to come back to the Council and report on their progress.

Mr. McNeal said that everything Mr. Pappas said is on point. He just make sure that ensure that funding is there to do what you think you need which were identified through self-evaluation.

As additional response to Mr. Payne's question, Mr. Pappas said that for example – if the sidewalk committee identifies a block of sidewalk missing, say, on Kirkwood Highway, his first step would be to check if there's any on-going construction project in the area and if they have a bit of money left in their contingency, he would ask them if they can take care of the gap. In that case, they're not going to use new money.

Ms. Zegeye commended Mr. Pappas for their great work. She said they also have pedestrian priority area in New Castle and she's curious to see how they match. More importantly, FHWA is looking at MPOs and State DOTs to look into a TAP Prioritization process

Mr. Schmitz asked about curb ramps that don't line up and lead pedestrians (especially those visually impaired) diagonally right into an intersection. Mr. Pappas said that DelDOT adopted its own Pedestrian Accessibility Standards that contains construction details that clarify the department's standards. The manual is available online but if Mr. Schmitz still has questions he can talk to Mr. Pappas.

VII. 2019 CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR

Mr. John McNeal and Ms. Jessica Welch were elected 2019 Chair and Co-Chair respectively of the Pedestrian Council

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 am. The next meeting is on April 23, 2019 at 10:00 am.